

## QUESTIONS BOOKLET



GRADE 12  
DIPLOMA EXAMINATION

English 30

Part B: Reading (Multiple Choice)

January 1991

**Alberta**  
EDUCATION

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**GRADE 12 DIPLOMA EXAMINATION  
ENGLISH 30**

**Part B: Reading (Multiple Choice)**

**QUESTIONS BOOKLET**

**DESCRIPTION**

Part B: Reading (Multiple Choice) contributes 50% of the total English 30 Diploma Examination mark.

There are 70 questions in the Questions Booklet and seven reading selections in the Readings Booklet.

Total time: 2 hours

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Be sure that you have an English 30 Questions Booklet and an English 30 Readings Booklet.
- You may NOT use a dictionary, thesaurus, or other reference materials.
- On the ANSWER SHEET provided, use ONLY an HB pencil to mark the CORRECT or BEST answer for each question.
- Mark only one answer for each question. If you change an answer, erase your first mark completely. Answer all questions.

**Example**

Which month has 31 days?

- A. February
- B. April
- C. November
- D. December

**Answer Sheet**

A    B    C    D

①    ②    ③    ●

**JANUARY 1991**



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**I. Read “Overcoats” on page 1 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 1 to 7.**

1. The speaker’s “dream of eternal warmth” (line 1) refers to a desire for
  - A. the comforts of dependency
  - B. the fantasies of childhood
  - C. protection from insecurities
  - D. experiencing the needs of others
2. The details “strangle scarf” and “buttons that must hold taut” (lines 2-3) imply the speaker’s
  - A. anxiety
  - B. confidence
  - C. carelessness
  - D. practicality
3. The speaker metaphorically implies his need for an overcoat in the phrase
  - A. “buttons that must hold taut” (lines 2-3)
  - B. “beyond my final prairie storm” (line 4)
  - C. “frayed elastic cuffs” (line 7)
  - D. “the endless, anxious crowd” (line 15)
4. The shift from memory to fantasy occurs at
  - A. line 3
  - B. line 10
  - C. line 15
  - D. line 29
5. In the context of the speaker’s fantasy, the name of the theatre is MAINLY
  - A. ironic
  - B. allusive
  - C. allegoric
  - D. metaphoric

*Continued*

6. Lines 15 to 32 evoke images that suggest a transition from

- A. caution to regret
- B. boredom to amusement
- C. triumph to humiliation
- D. pretense to confidence

7. The STRONGEST indication that the wearing of the overcoats symbolizes the speaker's vulnerability is

- A. "there, in the recess of some pocket as yet unexplored" (lines 12-13)
- B. "my soft rabbit fur collar of childhood" (lines 21-22)
- C. "they would become unbearably tighter" (line 26)
- D. "there is no end to the overcoats of childhood" (lines 27-28)

**II. Read the excerpt from *Housekeeping* on pages 2 and 3 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 8 to 20.**

8. Lines 1 to 8 characterize the narrator's grandmother as

- A. having uncompromising ideals
- B. being justifiably pessimistic
- C. being unjustifiably optimistic
- D. having an implicit trust in fate

9. The grandfather's role in the family (lines 10 to 20) is defined MAINLY in terms of his

- A. gentle affection
- B. kindly detachment
- C. stern disapproval
- D. erratic generosity

10. The grandmother's common sense, her refusal to expect miracles, is BEST indicated by

- A. "my grandmother did not consider leaving" (line 1)
- B. "She accepted the idea that at some time she and my grandfather would meet" (lines 8-9)
- C. "She hoped that he would somehow have acquired a little more stability" (lines 10-11)
- D. "but she did not set her heart on it" (lines 19-20)

11. That the grandmother perceived her life to be imperfect is MOST CLEARLY suggested by

- A. "an easy enough road through a broad country" (lines 4-5)
- B. "everything one had ever lost or put aside" (line 8)
- C. "without the worry of money, in a milder climate" (line 10)
- D. "she had a house and a pension" (lines 13-14)

*Continued*

12. The “bitter” aspect of the grandfather’s death (line 13) is that the grandmother

- A. feared being left alone
- B. was inadequately provided for
- C. felt that the family had been deserted
- D. was overwhelmed with responsibilities

13. The statement “she set out upon her widowhood, and became altogether as good a widow as she had been a wife” (lines 20-21) suggests a quality in the grandmother that is reflected MAINLY in

- A. “When suppertime came, they would follow their mother into the kitchen, set the table, lift the lids off the pans” (lines 36-37)
- B. “She had always known a thousand ways to circle them all around with what must have seemed like grace” (lines 47-48)
- C. “Of course they pressed her and touched her as if she had just returned after an absence” (lines 54-55)
- D. “The wanting never subsided until something — a quarrel, a visit — took her attention away” (lines 72-73)

14. The narrator’s description of the girls in lines 29 to 35 serves to

- A. confirm the girls’ happiness
- B. reinforce Sylvie’s immaturity
- C. introduce the narrator’s mother
- D. set Sylvie apart from her sisters

15. In the context of lines 37 to 38, “fastidious” means

- A. shy
- B. careful
- C. fretful
- D. argumentative

16. The details of the grandmother’s encircling “grace” (lines 47 to 54) serve MAINLY to reinforce the

- A. sense of well-being that the grandmother created
- B. grandmother’s efforts to alleviate her daughters’ grief
- C. positive values that the grandmother instilled in her daughters
- D. grandmother’s attitude toward the traditional tasks of homemaking

*Continued*

17. The context of the phrase “his sudden vanishing had made them aware of her” (lines 56-57) MOST STRONGLY suggests that

- A. the grandfather had alienated his children
- B. death had caused the children to attend closely to life
- C. the grandmother turned to her children as solace for her grief
- D. death had caused the grandmother to extend her spiritual influence

18. In the description of the seahorses — “so arch, so antic and heraldic, and armored in the husks of insects” (lines 69-70) — the word that stands MOST in contrast and suggests the grandmother’s understanding of vulnerability is

- A. arch
- B. antic
- C. armored
- D. heraldic

19. The narrator’s attitude toward the grandmother is one of

- A. tolerance
- B. appreciation
- C. indifference
- D. condescension

20. The glimpse into private lives offered by this excerpt suggests MAINLY that

- A. family relationships constantly change
- B. love creates a void in human relationships
- C. we rely on family life to establish relationships
- D. we seek the comfort of familiarity in times of need

**III. Read “Gifts” on pages 4 and 5 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 21 to 31.**

21. The reason for the son’s crying is that he feels that he has

- A. wasted his money
- B. displeased his mother
- C. been justifiably rejected
- D. made an irrevocable mistake

22. The image of “the stubborn intervals that try to force a song apart” (lines 9-10) serves to parallel the

- A. son’s innocence and his mother’s sense of guilt
- B. effect of the mother’s fear on her son’s despair
- C. effect of the son’s sobs on the sounds of merrymaking
- D. mother’s sense of responsibility to her son and to her guests

23. The mother refers to her reasons for wearing the T-shirt as “all that corny truth” (line 17) because

- A. she is amused by the naiveté of her son’s choice
- B. she perceives the superficiality of her son’s gesture
- C. her son’s perceptions cause these reasons to be discounted
- D. her son’s responses cause her to adopt a pleasing attitude

24. The phrase “*Can’t take it back*” (line 26) is italicized and repeated in order to

- A. emphasize the son’s realization of his failure
- B. emphasize the son’s inability to accept defeat
- C. demonstrate the mother’s desire to appease her son
- D. illustrate the mother’s acceptance of her son’s despair

*Continued*

25. The mother's realization of the change in her son's perceptions is MOST DIRECTLY indicated by

- A. "his sobs carry him out and further away from me" (lines 5-6)
- B. "I'd wear it anyway, because of the Mickey Mouse decal" (lines 12-13)
- C. "He can see it's not my style" (line 24)
- D. "it's the chill of that, for the first time" (line 27)

26. The speaker uses the examples of the nonreturnable shirt (line 26) and the irretrievable words in an argument (lines 30-34) to suggest that

- A. innocence cannot be regained
- B. sorrow results from misadventure
- C. truth must prevail in relationships
- D. youth cannot adapt to circumstances

27. The words that indicate that the process of the son's growth (lines 35-36) is both unconscious and deliberate are

- A. "unbidden" (line 37) and "practicing" (line 43)
- B. "gesture" (line 37) and "hands" (line 38)
- C. "impatience" (line 37) and "morning" (line 43)
- D. "measures" (line 40) and "studying" (line 41)

28. The turtle's moving from land to water (line 48) serves as a metaphor for the son's transition from

- A. idealism to realism
- B. awkwardness to grace
- C. childhood to maturity
- D. fearfulness to courage

29. Just as the mother wears the unsuitable T-shirt, her son, "grinning" (line 71), wears the badge of his

- A. shame
- B. happiness
- C. generosity
- D. imperfection

*Continued*

30. The mother sees the “cost” of the T-shirt as being pinned to her son’s chest like a badge (lines 72-73) because it represents

- A. the joys of the past
- B. his sense of accomplishment
- C. his mocking of sentimentality
- D. the significance of his experience

31. The poem conveys MAINLY the mother’s sense of

- A. disappointment with her son’s reaction to failure
- B. powerlessness to intervene in her son’s maturation
- C. anxiety as she watches her son approach manhood
- D. happiness with her son’s growing sense of self

**IV. Read “Voltaire and Frederick the Great” on pages 6 to 8 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 32 to 42.**

32. The omission of the characters’ names in paragraph one serves to

- A. focus on the situation
- B. create a serious tone
- C. personalize history
- D. establish contrast

33. The “lesson” alluded to in line 8 is BEST expressed in the statement

- A. “we know how dangerous such men can be, and what miseries they can bring upon themselves and others” (lines 49-50)
- B. “Frederick, like Hitler, fancied himself as an artist” (line 82)
- C. “if a man believes in liberty and variety and tolerance and sympathy he cannot breathe the air of the totalitarian state” (lines 114-115)
- D. “Voltaire kept faith with the human spirit” (line 118)

34. Voltaire’s good qualities (lines 9-20) are BEST summed up as being

- A. intellectual
- B. humanitarian
- C. humorous
- D. creative

35. According to the author, the DOMINANT fault of Frederick the Great was his

- A. indulgence
- B. shrewdness
- C. treachery
- D. tyranny

*Continued*

36. Voltaire's and Frederick's personalities were both characterized by

- A. predictability
- B. contradictions
- C. dependability
- D. shallowness

37. The recurrence of the “ominous little word ‘But’ ” in Voltaire’s letter (line 70) serves to emphasize

- A. Frederick’s intellectual posing
- B. Frederick’s shortcomings as a host
- C. Voltaire’s resistance to Frederick’s influence
- D. Voltaire’s ingratitude for Frederick’s generosity

38. By enclosing the word “ ‘Gestapo’ ” (line 94) in quotation marks, the author indicates that the word is

- A. a colloquial term
- B. an ironic understatement
- C. borrowed out of context for effect
- D. contemporary jargon that has popular appeal

39. From what is seen of Voltaire and Frederick, they continued their correspondence after the disastrous visit likely because each

- A. admired the other’s uniqueness
- B. needed the approval of his equals
- C. hoped to change the other’s beliefs
- D. prided himself on being charismatic

40. The MAIN effect of directly quoting the two characters is to

- A. confirm conflict of values
- B. illustrate 18th century fashions of speech
- C. clarify the discrepancy between motives and actions
- D. add credibility and vitality to an historical account

*Continued*

41. The most significant difference in character between Frederick and Voltaire is BEST expressed in the phrases

- A. “despised the human race” (lines 44-45) and “believed in humanity” (line 46)
- B. “The Solomon of the North” (lines 62-63) and “Possessor of Voltaire” (line 64)
- C. “was a free man” (line 75) and “was a tyrant” (line 76)
- D. “‘my visitor is a genius’ ” (line 87) and “‘my host is a mighty monarch’ ” (line 88)

42. This essay revolves around the central idea that

- A. history reflects human impulse
- B. historical accounts are entertaining
- C. Voltaire and Frederick were eccentric characters
- D. Voltaire and Frederick were complementary characters

V. Read the excerpt from *Troilus and Cressida* on pages 9 and 10 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 43 to 51.

43. The purpose of Priam's opening speech (lines 1-7) is to

- A. persuade his sons
- B. review Trojan losses
- C. present Nestor's proposal
- D. concede to Nestor's demands

44. Hector's MAIN argument for yielding Helen to the Greeks (lines 8-16) is that

- A. Helen is not a Trojan citizen
- B. Helen's abduction was unreasonable
- C. Helen has contributed little to Troy
- D. Helen's value cannot justify more Trojan losses

45. Troilus' use of the word "dread" (line 19) in referring to the king reflects the Elizabethan view of the

- A. unmerited authority of kingship
- B. inherent reverence of kingship
- C. right of a king to punish his sons
- D. unanimity between kings and princes

46. In his speech in lines 17 to 20, Troilus implies his position by

- A. indicating his esteem for his father
- B. questioning the honor of the Greeks
- C. questioning the honor of his father
- D. proclaiming his defiance of danger

47. When Hector gives his opinion regarding the value of a thing (lines 41-45), he is saying that value

- A. may be fixed by the individual
- B. should exceed the cost of God's gifts
- C. is wholly dependent on public opinion
- D. is set by both the object and the appraiser

*Continued*

48. In lines 46 to 49, Troilus presents his argument by using

- A. analogy
- B. contrast
- C. deduction
- D. hypothesis

49. Cassandra's sudden impassioned plea (lines 61-70) serves to

- A. discredit her brothers' responses
- B. disturb her brothers with her madness
- C. introduce an unrelated element into the argument
- D. contrast with the reasoned argument of her brothers

50. When Cassandra wails "Troy must not be, nor goodly Ilion stand; / Our firebrand brother, Paris, burns us all" (lines 67-68), she means that Paris

- A. has antagonized his family
- B. will cause Troy's downfall
- C. will disgrace his family
- D. has given bad advice

51. The two characters whose positions are MOST CLEARLY shown to be in agreement are

- A. Hector and Cassandra
- B. Priam and Cassandra
- C. Priam and Troilus
- D. Helenus and Paris

**VI. Read the excerpt from *Caesar and Cleopatra* on pages 11 to 13 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 52 to 60.**

52. The contrast in Caesar's and Rufio's responses to Pothinus in lines 7 and 8 serves MAINLY to

- A. create suspense
- B. identify the conflicts
- C. characterize the speakers
- D. emphasize the serious tone

53. Pothinus is “*Disconcerted*” (line 33) by Caesar's

- A. guile
- B. cruelty
- C. openness
- D. innocence

54. Rufio's response to Cleopatra's request in lines 51-52 shows him to be

- A. respectful
- B. unimpressed
- C. amused
- D. uneasy

55. Caesar's remark “You see. Torture would not have wrung a word from him” (lines 58-59) is a sardonic reference to

- A. line 23
- B. lines 31-32
- C. lines 36-42
- D. lines 44-45

56. Cleopatra's response to Caesar in lines 68 and 69 MOST STRONGLY suggests that the word “*deign*” means

- A. regret
- B. refuse
- C. apologize
- D. condescend

*Continued*

57. Cleopatra reacts as she does (line 66) to Pothinus' accusation because she

- A. is angered that others recognize the truth
- B. resents her childlike nature being mocked
- C. realizes that her ambitions are unrealistic
- D. is hurt that her affections for Caesar are being rejected

58. Cleopatra is characterized in this excerpt as being MAINLY

- A. impulsive
- B. treacherous
- C. arrogant
- D. violent

59. Caesar's response to Pothinus in lines 76 to 80 is an expression of Caesar's

- A. apathy and humor
- B. foolishness and pride
- C. bitterness and anxiety
- D. perceptiveness and acceptance

60. Cleopatra's attempt to manipulate Caesar is BEST ILLUSTRATED in the stage direction

- A. "CAESAR gives CLEOPATRA *his seat, which she takes*" (line 29)
- B. "*With subdued ferocity*" (line 36)
- C. "*Priggishly*" (line 50)
- D. "*Caressingly*" (line 108)

**VII. Read “The Bird and the Snake” on pages 14 and 15 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 61 to 70.**

61. The speaker develops his thesis MAINLY by means of

- A. antithesis
- B. comparison
- C. observation and reflection
- D. scientific documentation

62. The effectiveness of the phrase “The sun was sparkling on the scales of a huge blacksnake” (line 23) is achieved MAINLY through

- A. repeated sibilant sounds
- B. economy of word
- C. connotation
- D. cacophony

63. The “plans” (line 29) of the bird and the snake, the “problem” of the onrushing nonexistent future (lines 30-31), refer to the

- A. innate fear of aggression
- B. desire to live life to the full
- C. natural enmity between birds and reptiles
- D. instinct to provide for the continuation of the species

64. The word “arbitrated” in line 45 suggests that the speaker acted as a

- A. mediator
- B. contender
- C. spectator
- D. perpetrator

65. An effective stylistic device used by the speaker in lines such as 65 to 70 is

- A. parallelism
- B. exaggeration
- C. understatement
- D. rhetorical question

*Continued*

66. The simile “unrolling from the seed like a genie from a bottle” (lines 68-69) describes the

- A. cycles of history
- B. speaker’s insight
- C. variety of landscape
- D. uncoiling motion of the blacksnake

67. The speaker implies the difference between factual knowledge and philosophical understanding in the phrases

- A. “what I can only describe as a very remarkable sight” (line 13) and “I penetrated the mystery” (line 22)
- B. “I gazed at the scene in astonishment” (lines 26-27) and “Thus the serpent and I, two terrible and feared beings, passed quickly out of view” (lines 49-50)
- C. “I suppose it might have been worth scientifically recording” (line 41) and “I had struggled . . . for a greater, more comprehensive version of myself” (lines 72-73)
- D. “I who contained the serpent and the bird and who read the past long written in their bodies” (lines 57-58) and “man, the Microcosm, contains the Macrocosm” (lines 65-66)

68. As the speaker relates his entire experience, his attitude changes from

- A. skepticism to concern to pride
- B. complacency to interest to insight
- C. indifference to curiosity to smugness
- D. condescension to excitement to uncertainty

*Continued*

69. The speaker approaches his subject from a point of view that is ultimately

- A. practical
- B. scientific
- C. imaginative
- D. philosophical

70. The speaker relates the episode between the bird and the snake in order to illustrate

- A. nature's role as an experimental testing ground for science
- B. man's desire to understand his place in the scheme of things
- C. the place that history holds in the larger macrocosm
- D. the violence in the world



